PRÆCOGNITA ASTROLOGICA:

OR,

247. 3. 8

ASTROLOGICAL JUDGMENTS,

And

MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS,

SHEWING,

What Material or Grand Changes or Revolutions are like to happen in the World,

But more especially

EUROPE,

in the so long and much talked of Year, 1688.

To which is added

An Account of the so much Admired and Amazing

PRODIGY.

By *Joh. Whalley* Student in *Physick* and *Astrology*.

Aug. 13. 1688. This may be Printed.

LONDON, Printed for *F. E.* in the Year 1688.

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To all the Legitimate Sons of the Divine *Urania* in the Kingdom of *Ireland.*

Gentlemen,

NOtwithſtanding *former Diſcouragements mentioned in the Dedication of my laſt years* Obſervations, *I did* (*at ſome of your Importunities*) *compoſe an* Ephemeris *or* Almanack *for this Year* 1688, *like that of* 1686. *And being under ſome miſunderſtanding with the Aſſigns of His Majeſties Printer about the Price of my laſt years Copy, I met with one* T. M.—— *a Bookſeller lately famous in* London; *who* (*as I ſince tho' not then underſtood*) *having ſtept to one ſide, and ſtragling in* Dublin *juſt as I had got my Copy licenſed, for a certain Sum agreed upon, and part received in hand, he by Bond under his Hand and Seal, oblig'd himſelf to deliver it at* Cheſter *printed on the laſt of* October; *when for Honeſty having retired himſelf from the reach of Juſtice, and it was too late to get them printed elſewhere, he inſtead thereof complemented me with a Lie, of their being ſeized in the Preſs; which upon examination I found as falſe as himſelf, and good grounds to believe he was procured by the aboveſaid Printers not to print it all, leſt it ſhould hinder the Sale of their Trash, publiſhed in the Names of* Plunket *and others not in being; but have been forged from* Ritchiſons *or my Copy. So that I had not publiſhed any thing ſo late, but to remove the Fears about the late* PRODIGY, *and Year* 1688. *and Trouble and Danger of tranſcribing theſe* Obſervations *frequently preſſed upon.*

Globe Cook-ſtreet Dublin,
March 12. 1688.

Urania's *Votary.* John Whalley.

Obſervations *on the* Prodigy *ſeen at* Dublin Jan. 27. 1688.

PRODIGIES are things ſeldom ſeen, and coming to paſs unexpectedly beyond imagination, beget miraculous Contemplation, Horrour, and Amazement. And therefore that ſeen at *Dublin*, on *Sunday Jan.* 27. 1688. may well receive that Name; for that it amazed not only its Beholders, but alſo moſt that then heard of it, juſt as if they expected it a ſign of nothing but of utter Ruine and Deſtruction to be immediately ſhower'd down upon theſe Nations, but more eſpecially *Ireland.*

I did not ſee this Prodigy my ſelf; but for the aforeſaid Reaſons, and the many Enquiries frequently made of me about it, I endeavoured to obtain the moſt abſolute Relation that could be procured; which was from the Watch of ſeveral parts of the City, who agree, That at midnight a Crack like that of a Cannon was heard, and immediately a great fiery Blaze ſeen flying from the South-weſt, over the City towards the North-eaſt, at one end like a half Ball, and thereout a great long Stream; which, by

this Description, I conclude to be of that sort of Prodigies, call'd Meteors; and of them, such as Naturalists call Beams, and Judge to be generated of Exhalations hot and dry, like the Lightening or flash of Thunder, of a vicious clammy nature, resembling Pitch, by being of thin and light parts, are by the Sun drawn and forced into the upper Region, and there by excessive heat, and nearness to the Fire, kindled, and by the Wind and Clouds carried through the Air, as this was in form of a Beam, to the terror of all its Beholders.

The Ingenious Mr. *Gadbury*, in his *Treatise of Prodigies*, *pag.* 57, gives an account of a Meteor, *Anno* 1384. the most like this of any I can read of since: but neither he nor any other, of any extraordinary consequences that attended that or any other, but what might rather be signified by the Stars; and therefore I conclude this so admired and amazing Prodigy in no wise so threatening or evil, as terrible and feared, especially to *England* and *Ireland*, and that the rather because in it self 'tis but an effect of other natural Causes, *viz.* the Stars, who only are the grand Signs or Natural Causes of Terrestrial Mutations.

Tho I cannot shew any Prodigy like this of late, in respect to its noise; there have been several of the same nature seen in and about *Dublin*, as in *June* 1682, *July* 13. 1685, and the 6th of *March* following, all about 11 at night, the likeness of Armies were seen fighting in the Air; and last Summer a Prodigy or Meteor like this in form and all things but its noise, was seen several times to fly over this City of *Dublin*, and yet, God be praised, no such bloody effects as are now feared have hitherto succeeded, or indeed are thereby threatened.

General Observations on the Year 1688.

IN my Almanack for this Year I had Observations on the Winter Ingress and three past Months, *January*, *February*, and *March*, which being before the publishing this expir'd, I omit, together with the Scheam of the Vernal Ingress; the better to contract this into the narrow room of one Sheet, to make the Price easie, and for satisfaction therein, refer the curious to Mr. *Mac-Combs* Almanack, being the only one this Year publick in *Ireland*, that is worth buying; where the time of this Vernal Ingress is taken from the *Rudolphine* Tables, and agrees within twelve minutes of time with that taken from Mr. *Gadburies Ephemeris March* 9th. 1 *hour* 12 *min. P. M.* when in the Meridian of *Dublin* we have 10 *deg.* of *Leo* ascending, and about twenty of *Aries* culminating, *Mars* Lord of the 10*th* in the 10*th* week in *Taurus*, his detriment among the *Pleiades*, a turbulent Sign and Constellation, and in *square* to *Venus*, his Dispositor in the seventh, which, according to the ancient Rules of Astrology, signifys a Necessity in Princes, and persons in Authority, to borrow Monies, or impose more than usual Taxes on the Subjects, and will animate them to Choler, Cruelty, and Rashness; one King, Prince, Nobleman, and chief Commander, will be subject to contend and quarrel with another upon slight occasion, or for what they have little right to. Some eminent Prince or Princes in forreign Parts, will even in this year be subjected to the Contempt and Reproach of his or their pretended Subjects or Neighbours, great Treachery, *&c.* from all which I hope and pray God will for ever deliver His Most Gracious Majesty of *Great Britain*.

Britain, & his Dominions. If any shall dare to forget their Allegiance justly due to him the Lords Anointed, as I fear too many do; let them cast an eye back to, and remember in the Tragedy of *England* and *Scotland*, 1685. how graciously he extended Mercy even to those that would have shewn little to him, if their Malice had prevailed. And, Dear Countrymen and Neighbours, consider the Blessing of Peace and Plenty, and that the best of Natures cannot for ever brook of Abuse, Wrong and Ingratitude; but when provoked beyond measure, justly become the most severe Punishers, and no longer the Vessels of Mercy, but Justice in so doing. And therefore let us, who call our selves Christians, shew our selves so in obeying the Lord and his Anointed, and no longer fool our selves with seditious Spirits and Fancies of what can only work the ruine of our selves and Posterity; For Kings have long Arms, and when thereto extended, strike severely. What People in Christendom enjoy the Blessings and Mercies we do under the best of Princes? Who studys not so much his own as the good of his People, and Glory of God, how to give every man, by Law, Liberty to worship their heavenly Father in their own way; and that is so far from using the Severity of his Predecessors, that he studies to relieve all those oppressed and persecuted for Conscience sake, even those of Foreign Nations that fly to him for Succour, and are of different Persuasion from his own, even forty thousand poor distressed French Protestants, that justly owe their Lives and Liberties to his Gracious Goodness and Favour. What can his own Subjects expect or crave more than he so bountifully vouchsafeth Strangers both to his Country and Religion? Is it reasonable for a dutiful Child to expect less from his Father, than he freely bestows to Strangers? If not, why should men study to heap coals of Confusion upon their own heads, when they may with more ease avoid it? Let all men vouchsafe their due Allegiance to their lawful Sovereign, the only means to prevent the Ruine which otherwise may attend them; and the Wo, Sorrow, and Affliction which is threatened to several parts of the World, even in this year, by the last and this Ingress. I know some Authors are of opinion, that *Venus* in the 7th, as here, is for reconciling Kingdoms and Persons at variance, and as now in *Trine* to and Reception with *Saturn*, and *Sextile* of *Mercury* conduceth much thereunto to some, and to the Grandeur of the Nobility of *Ireland* in particular. But as she is there in *Square* to *Mars*, the clear contrary to others, *viz.* the promotion of Wars, Bloodshed, Differences and Discord, unusual Law-Suits and Controversies; and shews that some one eminent Female will be subjected to the Frowns of Fate, if not the Malice of Death, or Contempt of her Lord. And with this, that *Square*, and those of *Jupiter* to *Mercury*, *Saturn*, and *Luna*, threatens abundance of Cold, Rain, Snow, Storms, Losses and Damage at Sea, both by that and Pyrates; more than usual Engagements or Sea Fights, Disputes about Religion and Church Affairs; and the broach or growing great of some new Sect or Sectaries; many Removals among those of the Gown and Bench, and some of the more aged of them into the other World, but more particularly one of the most eminent Ruling Clergymen in Christendom.

Luna just separated from the body of *Saturn*, and void of Course, promiseth but little Satisfaction to the Vulgar, but rather Disappointments, Wo, Grief, Sorrow and Affliction, wherever Providence shall dispose of the Effects, and that partly by their own Folly and Stiffneckedness; Yet the Lord of the second, and Part of Fortune, free from the malignant Beams of the Infortunes, with the Position of *Jupiter* and *Venus* in the

second,

second, in the preventional Lunation, promiseth much less cause of Complaint for want of Trade than last year. However, I advise the Husbandman to provide well against a bad Harvest, and hard Winter.

But that which is most observable in this Revolution, is, the Partile *Square* of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* from Cardinal Signs, which will in earnest usher in, and that speedily too, the Effects of their Conjunction in the years 1682, & 1683. and make the World sensible, that such Congresses have influence upon the state of Laws, Customs, Constitutions, and Priviledges of Nations, Persons, Places, and things Ecclesiastical, and to change them too. And therefore it is not to be expected, Altrologers should, under them, preach Peace and Tranquillity, when the contrary is so severely threatned as now; and I dare aver, will be felt by most States and Degrees of People in *Europe*. While some that have been long wallowing in Blood are preparing and contriving to ease themselves of those burdens; others are as fast running into like extreams. Great Overtures are made by the *Turks*; the *Poles* and *Venetians* seem inclinable to embrace them; the Christian Emperour more slack, but not so backward as of late. *France* and *Spain* seem indifferently friendly, the *Swede* and *Dane* to jarr; the *Poles* and *Muscovites* as of late, the *Algerines* pay for the Roast: *Scotland* in Wisdom may be happy, and *Ireland* not inferior: the *Dutch* are imperious, and will meet Correction from those, whom I beseech God ever to enable to correct the Insolencies of their Enemies, and bless with Health, Peace and Plenty. *Amen.*

Observations on the last 9 Months of the Year 1688.

April. Besides being so at the Vernal Ingress, *Jupiter* continues still in *Square* to *Saturn*, and great part of the last and this Month in *Square* to *Sol*; which with the *Opposition* of *Sol* and *Saturn*, and other Configurations of this Month seem to threaten much Sickness about this time, Dissatisfaction, Grief, Trouble and Vexation, if not Death, to some eminent Grandee or Grandees of *Europe*. And indeed to persons of meaner quality, frowns of Superiors, loss of Honour, Office and Imploy, the downfall of some one, or more, eminent Gown-man, Disputes about Religion, or matters of Faith, and great mischiefs at Sea both by Storms and Pyrates, Engagements or Sea Fights may succeed, but not this month; I fear the *London* Merchants will share in the woful effects of the cross Configurations.

May. Matters seem now rather tending to Counsel than Actions; however all are not idle, but rather contriving or preparing for the Actions of the following months; some endeavouring to create and others to destroy the Peace, not only of particular Persons and Families, but also Nations and Kingdoms; the first seems to take most place now; and may all just endeavours so succeed. *Great Britain* is much concern'd in this months Proceedings, and *Holland* is not idle, but rather preparing for Action; I wish it may prove for good, but fear the contrary, however that Nation is about this time making more than usual preparation for fitting out Shipping, or some considerable Naval Action.

June. Now the Actions of the year begin to shew themselves in their colours; those concern'd hasting to oppose and engage each other, and will not be wanting to furnish

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us with the news of some considerable Fight, yea and perhaps at Sea too; if not, there will arise more than ordinary Disputes about matters relating thereunto, if not about Religion also. But if not this month, we shall certainly hear plentifully of such matters before the Summer be over, wherein *Holland* will be more than a little concern'd.

July. Of all earthly blessings, certainly there's none so precious as Health and Peace; and yet there are an *Israel*-like pamper'd People, with Wantonness stuft to that degree of Pride and Ambition, that no state but Ruine can satisfy their Jew-like desires. It was the Murdering of their Heavenly King that made the Jews Slaves and Vagabonds; and, the crying Blood of his Anointed, that already hath brought loads of Misery upon these Nations: And therefore Dear Countrymen and Neighbours, let us for the future endeavour to Expiate that, and not study to heap Coals of Confusion upon our Selves and Posterity; but instead of that, what may make both them and us happy; for *every Kingdom divided against it self is brought to Desolation*, Luke 11. 17.

Now the Effects of the last great Tripple Conjunction, begin to shew themselves to purpose, and most degrees feel it, especially Superiors; some through Disobedience and Folly, others against their Wills.

Death spareth none, but equals all;
The Mighty, Mean, and Poor must fall.

August. Many hopeful endeavours are used this month to heal the Evils of those past, and for settling things in a more secure state for the future, for the Peace and Satisfaction of Nations, Kings, Princes, and private Persons at variance; yea, even between the two mighty Emperours of *Germany* and *Turky*, they may palliate, but cannot heal. Some grave Statesman, long clouded, begins to Lustre forth Rays of Comfort to himself and others equally grieved; Males and Females, Gown-men, and indeed almost every State to be satisfied with Reason, finds this a month of Comfort in one degree or other, in *England*, *Ireland*, and several other parts of *Europe*, as well as *America*. Merchants meet satisfactory Returns from Foreign parts; those of the Gown and Bench with Preferment, and several Females, but one of most illustrious Birth in particular with most Honourable Marriage.

September. Were it not for the malignant, treacherous, and twice reiterated Square of the two Superiors, beginning within Orbs in *January*, being Partile at the Vernal Ingress, and continuing even to the years end, I should have judged the many friendly Aspects of the last and this month sufficient to compose all the Feuds in the World, and create a Jubile; but alas! that were a Happiness too too great for so sinfull a People as this Age contains; for though it might satisfy some, and those too lately afflicted, yet it cannot all, for what is one mans Meat is another Mans Poyson, and what the Stomach cannot bear, it will either reject, or when forced upon it cast out; there is a certain Sympathy and Antipathy in Nature, which Wills some to Love what others Abhor, and oftentimes there is Necessity to use force for Ease and Safety, and perhaps may now for Cure of some State Distempers.

October. Reason seems to confirm the season past for Publick Action, and the *Stars* declare it in its Prince for Councel; many deep and weighty Consultations and Debates are now on foot, and I hope much to a general good and satisfaction: but, whether for past or present offences, the common People are afflicted about this time with Imprisonment, and such like Troubles. False and lying reports are daily spread abroad to

hurry

hurry people into Fears and Distractions: and one Friend and Neighbour is ready to accuse another, and that unjustly too, by which Offenders are brought to Justice. The season is stormy, yet Merchants meet happy returns; Women in Travel and young Children find it but an indifferent season.

November. Poor *Jupiter* continues still weak and afflicted both by *Saturn* and *Mars* in Conjunction with the *Dragons Tail*. What is it base men cannot do when Able, Strong, Joyn'd and resolv'd for Mischief? This Month is not inferiour to the former for Councel and Contrivances, but of different Natures, those publick and tending to Good, and these private tending to evil. Ay! even to dishonour Authority, and Disturbance of Government and most sacred Divine Matters, and to that end many base Scrolls and Storys are broacht and pack't about, but a short time will shew their Event in the Destruction of the Founders; the design is general, but particular to some great Person, Statesman, *&c.* who must fall by their Malice before their work can be accomplished. But *Saturn* and *Mars* changing their Signs in Conjunction will suddenly change the balance of Affairs, bring Offenders to punishment, occasion very bad Cold, Snowy, Stormy Weather, and many Changes in Affairs of Government Church and State.

December. The coldness of the Season and the Friendship of the Stars seem to promise more Health than in several months past; Increase of Trade, and more general satisfaction especially to *England* and *Ireland*. An eminent Female receives Affliction, or a garment of her first Element, and many others Removals from their Honours, Offices, and Imploys, to make way for others conceiv'd more deserving. many secret Ambassys are sent privately from one place and Princes Court to another, about Matters of very great moment; it is some business which should produce nothing but good, and yet little will acrue from hence but evil.

Of the ECLIPSES, 1688.

THere will be four *Eclipses* this year, the first of the *Moon*, *April* the 5th, at 6 in the Afternoon.

The second of the Sun *April* the 20*th*. at one in the Morning.

The third of the Moon *September the* 29*th*. half an hour past 9 in the Morning.

The fourth of the *Sun*, *October* the 14*th*. near 7 in the Morning, but all invisible and not to be seen, or felt by us.

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